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REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM IN THE AGENDA OF THE FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN

Letter dated 30 September 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to submit herewith a request, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, that an additional item, entitled "Emergency assistance to Pakistan", be included in the agenda of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly for priority consideration by the Assembly in plenary meeting.

In accordance with the provisions of rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum concerning the request is attached (see annex).

(Signed) Jamsheed K. A. MARKER
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Explanatory memorandum

1. During the second week of September 1992, unprecedented rainfall occurred in the northern areas of Pakistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The intensity of the rain was the highest ever experienced in that region.

2. The rains led to exceptionally high flows in the catchment areas of rivers in Pakistan, leading to extensive floods and colossal damage. Thousands of villages have been inundated. Floods and landslides have swept away many bridges, roads, railway tracks, as well as the telecommunication network. The Karakoram Highway, which links Pakistan with China, has been badly damaged and closed for traffic. The exact number of casualties is not yet known, but it is estimated to be very high. The exact extent of the damage cannot be evaluated at present. However, the damage in financial terms is estimated at more than US$ 1 billion. The extent of damage is so tremendous that restoration work will take several years and will entail a very high cost.

3. A preliminary summary of the major damages and losses sustained during the torrential rains and floods is given below:

(a) Persons dead or missing: 1,022

(b) Houses damaged or destroyed: 176,117

(c) Persons displaced: 6 million

(d) Heads of cattle and goats/sheep lost: 122,000

4. The Government of Pakistan is taking all possible measures to alleviate the sufferings of the people affected by the floods.

5. In view of the extent of the loss of life and widespread damage caused by the torrential rains and floods in Pakistan, the Government of Pakistan would appreciate if the proposed item entitled "Emergency assistance to Pakistan" is included in the agenda of the forty-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly and considered directly in plenary meeting on an urgent basis.